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ELIOT EPWORTHIAN.

Vol. III.

ELIOT, MAINE, DECEMBER, 1894.

No. 2.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent hours go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So, God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emanuel!

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

—Selected.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

[Written for the ELIOT EPWORTHIAN.]

At this season, our thoughts instinctively turn toward Christmas, the glad holiday of the year which brings so much comfort and joy to many hearts. The children look forward with eager expectancy, counting days and even hours, dreaming by day and by night of the coming of Santa Claus bearing gifts of books and toys, candies and cornballs and all that will make a child's heart glad. The careless and indifferent think of it only as a day of mirth and frolic; the thoughtful and devout remember with joy that Christmas has a deeper meaning, that by its observance, we commemorate the birth of Him who lived and died for us.

A few historical facts in regard to the observance of the day may not prove uninteresting to the readers of the EPWORTHIAN.

In the early church, no attention was paid to the observance of the date of Jesus' birth. They celebrated, instead, the anniversaries of his death and resurrection. While there are legends of its having been observed at an earlier date, the first certain traces of its observance are found during the reign of the Emperor Commodus, who reigned (180-192, A. D.) In the reign of Diocletian (284-305, A. D.) while that ruler was keeping court at Nicomedia he chanced to learn that a multitude of Christians, young and old, were assembled in the city to celebrate the birthday of Jesus and having ordered the church doors to be closed and securely fastened, he set fire to the

building and the worshipers perished in the flames.

In the early observance of Christmas, there was a lack of uniformity as to the date of celebration. The precise date of the Saviour's birth cannot be ascertained from the Scriptures and not positively proven from any other sources and as a consequence some of the churches observed the day in May, others in April and still others in January.

About the fourth century, Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, urged Pope Julius I to issue an investigation concerning the date of Christ's birth; the result was a general agreement in favor of the twenty-fifth of December. From that time, the church has celebrated it on the same day, whether that day, according to the part of the world, comes in summer or winter. The Greek church, however, did not accept this decision as having sufficient proof, so their Christmas, in Russia and other parts of the world where the Greek church prevails, is celebrated twelve days later.

Customs peculiar to different countries have risen in connection with the observance of Christmas.

In England, the decoration of the home with holly and mistletoe and the placing upon the fire of the huge yule log or Christmas block are considered essential features.

In Sweden, a sheaf of wheat is elevated upon a pole for the birds, so that the feathered tribe may share the Christmas joy.

In France, little attention is paid to the day, save the religious ceremonies, as the New Year is considered a far more important holiday. The religious services, in the Catholic church, are very elaborate, being the greatest display of the year.

Did time and space permit, we might refer to customs peculiar to other lands and people. In our own beloved country, we have the tree and other customs familiar to us all.

As the Christmas time approaches, let us bear in mind, in all our joy, the deep significance of the day. May the echo of the message, brought from heaven by the angelic hosts, when Christ was born in Bethlehem so many years ago, reverberate through all our hearts, and as we join the glad chorus, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and goodwill toward men," may a renewed desire enter every heart, that God may be glorified in our lives, and may we hear the Master's voice saying to us personally, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

GOOD OLD TIMES.

[For the ELIOT EPWORTHIAN.]

The early history of the towns of Kittery, York and Berwick, gives us many sad stories of the suffering our

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forefathers endured at the hands of the Indians. There is one of the burning of York village in 1692 which may not be familiar to all of our young people, and we will venture to repeat it.

York was settled by the English about 1624, but no danger was feared from the savages till fifty years later when Philip's war began, and it was probably at this time that the garri- sons were built.

We should think that the early settlers had troubles enough of their own without joining in the disputes of the mother country, but when the war between England and France, known as the King William and Mary war, broke out, the English colonies here took up the quarrel. The Indians of Maine and Canada joined the French, and for eight years the exposed settlements of New England and New York were from time to time attacked and partly destroyed.

At this time there was quite a settlement at York Harbor, known from 1642 to 1652 as the city of Gorgeana, the first incorporated city in America.

It was in the winter of 1692, early one snowy morning, that the people of York were startled from sleep by the sound of guns and yells of savages, and found to their horror that that they were surrounded by three hundred Indians, led by Canadian Frenchmen on snowshoes.

House after house was broken into and men, women and children killed or taken captive as it suited the savage fancy; every house was plundered and set on fire before the Indians hurried off with their captives. Among those who perished that day

was Rev. Shubael Dummer, who had organized the first church there in 1672, which is now claimed to be the oldest church in the state of Maine. He lived near the sea, and was shot at his own door while mounting his horse, and his wife and son carried off with the other captives.

A few men had escaped to the Gar- rison houses of Preble, Harmon, Norton or Alcock, and there succeeded in repelling the savages.

All the other houses in the village were burned to the ground, and over fifty of the inhabitants killed, and about one hundred carried away as prisoners. They were marched through deep snows to Canada, suffering all kinds of hardships and cruelties, and many died on the way.

Among the prisoners was a little boy of seven years, named Jeremiah Moulton, who lived to return to York, and thirty years afterwards he avenged this massacre by marching with Capt. Harmon and two hundred men to Norridgewock and destroying this same tribe of Kennebec Indians.

Selfishness and happiness are ever at variance. The person who lives for self, works for self, and, in fact, thinks only of self, is one of the most wretched persons to be found. That person who is least selfish, and places self in the background, is the one who will get the largest amount of real happiness out of his life, and who will bestow the most upon others.

The measure of action is the sentiment from which it proceeds.—Emerson.

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MISS ANNIE RAITT, } EDITORS.
MISS E. M. BARTLETT, }
EDWARD BARTLETT, GEN. MANAGER.
ALFRED BARTLETT, ASST. MANAGER.

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PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

As the December number of the EPWORTHIAN comes to its readers, the stir and bustle so suggestive of the Christmas holidays will be rapidly approaching. The hearts of young and old look forward, at this season, with joyful anticipations, and glow with feelings belonging especially to this glad time. Our New England homes have already been sent their customary holiday attire of soft, white snow. The merry jingle of sleigh bells floats out upon the air, sending a pleasant winter greeting to all along the way.

A greeting, too, would the EPWORTHIAN send to each of its readers at this time. A cordial wish that for each and all may dawn a happy Christmas, filled with peace, goodwill and good cheer.

CHURCH AND LEAGUE NOTES.

The fourth anniversary of Pearl Chapter was observed Sunday evening, Nov. 4th, 1894. The church was prettily decorated for the occasion with flowers, the league colors, cross and banner. In front of the desk rested the picture of the great Methodist leader, John Wesley. The exercises opened with a praise service by the choir, followed by reports from the different departments, of work accomplished during the year. Presiding Elder Palmer then delivered an excellent address on the subject, "What Good." It has been proven to be both interesting and profitable to note these anniversary days as they come around, and Pearl Chapter's fourth was found to be no exception to the previous ones.

Several members of Pearl Chapter are attending the singing school held at the Congregational church every Friday evening by Mr. Whittier, of Portsmouth. We are glad that some of our young people can avail themselves of this privilege, and we hope it may result in our having a male quartette to assist in making our programs attractive.

We have to note the death of two women who have recently passed away in our town. Both had lived more than their allotted three-score

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Andrew P. Preston,

(Preston of New Hampshire.)

years and ten, in homes but a short distance apart. In their youthful days they attended the same school. The first to pass from earth was Mrs. Sally Stacy, the mother of George Stacy, on the 22nd of November. The other, Mrs. Lydia Worster, widow of Stephen Worster, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Bartlett, Dec. 4th. For many years Mrs. Worster has been a respected member of the First M. E. church.

Quite a number of new books will be bought for Pearl Library before Christmas. We intend to give our young people a chance to enjoy some of the best books of the day, as well as some from standard authors.

We are sorry to learn that Rev. J. H. Trask is suffering so much from rheumatism that he has to sit in a chair while preaching. He is at Conway, N. H., this year.

The Congregational society have frequent entertainments at their vestry, which are enjoyed very much.

At the annual meeting of Pearl Chapter, held Nov. 6, the following officers were elected to serve for one year: President, Miss Annie E.

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A meeting of the officers was held on the 13th, and full committees chosen for each department of work. We hope everyone chosen will take an active interest in their work and consult with their chairman as soon as possible.

Special revival services will be held at the First M. E. church, beginning the second week of December.

Several good friends of the EPWORTHIAN have manifested their friendliness and appreciation of the paper by sending to the editor more than the subscription price, in sums varying from twenty-five cents to one dollar. Such substantial tokens of approbation are gratefully received, as they swell our book fund and enable us to fill the library shelves more rapidly.

Rev. E. A. Porter, after an absence of nine weeks, again occupied his pulpit Sunday, Nov. 25th, much to the satisfaction of his people, who gladly welcome their pastor and his family home to their midst.

Thanksgiving evening a few leaguers and some friends gathered in the vestry for a social hour. Miss Emma Stewart, of Haverhill, was present and greatly aided in the entertainment of the company by some finely rendered selections on the piano. During the evening a Thanksgiving story and poem were read. At the close Rev. E. A. Porter made some remarks appropriate for the occasion and offered prayer.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

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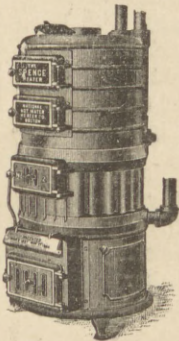
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Preaching Service, - - - 10.45 A. M.
Sunday School, - - - 12 M.
League Prayer Meeting, - 6.30 P. M.
General Meeting, - - - 7.30 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, Friday, - 7.30 P. M.
League Business Meeting, first
Monday in each month, - 7.30 P. M.
Cabinet Meeting, last Monday
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STRAY BITS FROM CONVENTION SPEAKERS HEARD AT MANCHESTER.

Men of to-day put knowledge against faith. The divine, human and scientific order is, 1st trust, 2d obey, 3d learn, 4th know, and 5th act. The pride of knowledge spoils many.

Ignorance is a good place from which to start, if you know where you are.

Knowledge is the marriage of outer fact and inner world.

The Epworth League is leagued with Christ to use the power obtained against sin.

If the League means anything, it means for every Leaguer to find his work.—Bishop Carman of Canada.

Our enthusiasm after being aroused is weakened unless it takes a practical form.

That sympathy is not genuine unless it assumes a practical form.—Rev. Mat. S. Hughes.

The Father who left you here knows what you were placed here for, and we find the reason in the Book.—C. I. Goodell.

The first motive of patriotism comes from without. The second motive comes from within. The third motive is the motive from above.

If you love the man who protects you, love also the nation who protects you.

If the gifts of the divine hand bring us nearer to the Father—God, why may not the gifts of the nation bring us nearer to our father-land?

Patriotism is never narrow; it is broad. When a man lifts his nation he also lifts the world.—Rev. Edwin H. Hughes.

WHAT ARE WE OMITTING?

The people of to-day are living in a busy, hurrying age. An age characterized by its multiplicity of business, its numerous and varied organizations and societies, its amusements and sports, (so called) of infinite number and variety, and its wonderful advance in the lines of science, art and education. Activity in all lines has been a demand of the 19th century, to which our American people have so responded that they have won for themselves the reputation of being an energetic, enterprising and prosperous people.

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schemes and fresh devices for work or pleasure constantly arising, have aroused a feeling of alarm in the minds of the thoughtful who perceive danger ahead caused by an over-pressure. There is a tendency upon the part of too many individuals to engage in more work or play than the human frame can endure without becoming impaired and weakened.

These facts are but little realized by the dwellers of a quiet country town, at a distance from the cities and larger villages, who receive but the echoes of the world's doings as brought by the papers from day to day.

In nearly every place, however, many attractive and inviting enterprises are begun which require a greater or less outlay of time and strength to carry them on successfully. This tax often becomes so heavy that some things of extreme importance are apt to be crowded out and overlooked. Margaret Sangster has well said in one of her poems,

It isn't the thing you do, dear,
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you a bit of a heartache,

At the setting of the sun.
The tender word forgotten,
The letter you did not write,
The flower you might have sent, dear,
Are your haunting ghosts to-night.

The stone you might have lifted
Out of a brother's way,
The bit of heartsome counsel,
You were hurried too much to say.
The loving touch of the hand, dear,
The gentle and winsome tone,
That you had no time nor thought for,
With troubles enough of your own.

These are some of the things which are too often crowded out in our busy seasons and looked back upon with regret.

In view of this, it becomes a necessity to occasionally take a quiet mental survey of our lives in order to determine what we are leaving out, or neglecting, that is of importance to ourselves and to others. Also, what we are pursuing that is unimportant, useless, and, it may be, detrimental to a rounded successful life.

The flight of time is rapid, and the period in which we can engage in any active service is short. This should teach us to place a high value upon each day and its opportunities, to spend our time wisely and definitely. By doing this, it will make the humblest life a power which will be felt even in this century of brilliant achievement and progress.

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THE OLD NEW ENGLAND ATTIC.

[Written for the ELIOT EPWORTHIAN.]

Who, having the privilege of visiting such a room in an old New England farmhouse, does not appreciate the opportunity?

I have often thought one might easily detect Mrs. Stowe's New England origin by the description which she gives, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," of the garret where Cassy and Emeline planned so successfully their escape from slavery.

To those who love to read, the chief attraction of the attic is the old desk or bookcase. What a treasure-house it proves, as it stands in some secluded corner, with every drawer and shelf crowded with books that have been read and re-read by several generations.

Among these books we find Bunyans "Holy War", Doddridge's "Rise and Progress", "Pilgrim's Progress", "Life of John Newton", "Solitude Sweetened", "Hervey's Meditations", "Baxter's Saints Rest", "Captain Cook's Voyages", and "Robinson Crusoe". Here also are the old school books, battered and worn with years of hard service. "The Preceptor", "Columbian Orator", and "Peter Parley's Geography", with the other text books in use seventy or eighty years ago, would be viewed with curious eyes by the enlightened school children of 1894.

Piled upon the shelves are files of newspapers bearing marks of age and careful handling. A package of such papers came to me last summer, and upon examining them I found they were filled with accounts of the recent death and funeral services of General George Washington. Full particulars were given of the services held upon that occasion in York, Portsmouth, and other places. In one paper was a copy of his will.

The trashy dime novel of to-day is not found on these old shelves, and one looks in vain for newspaper columns filled with descriptions of horse races, base-ball games, and prize fighting.

Besides reading matter one finds in those old attics, fragrant with the memories of the past, an interesting variety of articles. There are looms for weaving cloth; big wheels for spinning wool and little wheels for spinning flax; reels, swifts, and all the implements used by the busy wives and mothers of the past. Here also peacefully repose the Dutch oven, the tin baker, for biscuit, and the tin kitchen for roasting poultry and meats. And the old quilting frames! what thoughts of social enjoyment and mirth do they suggest.

How the children enjoy a rainy day in grandmother's garret. The patter, patter of "the many fingered rain" on the roof keeping time to the music of their voices as they play "hide and seek" in the dark corners among the old furniture.

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FANCY GOODS, HANDKERCHIEFS, ETC.,
in endless variety.

IN BOOKS, WE HAVE A SPLENDID LINE,
and shall sell at CUT PRICES.

D. H. STACY & SON, SOUTH BERWICK, ME.

I may be an enthusiast on the subject, but, if I have the pleasure of spending summers in a farmhouse, I hope that I may be fortunate enough to find one with an *old-fashioned attic*.

J.

LOCALS.

Everett Moulton has made arrangements to set up his steam saw-mill in the pasture belonging to Miss Polly Goodwin, near the Methodist church. He is at present clearing a wood lot on the Oliver Shapleigh estate.

Light on the subject. We've often been asked how it came that we have the biggest shoe trade in Portsmouth. We're very modest, but really think its because we keep the best goods and sell at the lowest prices. Manning, the shoelist, 5 Market street.

Has your subscription to the Eliot EPWORTHIAN expired? If so, please see at once to having it renewed.

Dover Clothing Co.,
Clothiers and Merchant Tailors,

286 and 288 Central Avenue.

W. S. Bradley, Proprietor, Dover.

A. MOULTON & CO.,
Ranges, Furnaces
and Plumbing,
DOVER, N. H.

J. B. WHITEHEAD & BRO.,
Merchant Tailors and Gents' Furnishers,

Mackintoshes of all grades. Agents for
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JOHN S. TILTON'S, Portsmouth.

Nealley's dry goods store, Dover, offers a choice line of black and colored dress goods, also tailor made jackets, at lowest prices. John H. Nealley.

The largest stock of sleighs at J. H. Randlett's, Dover, N. H., and at a less price than was ever known. A fine new sleigh for \$30.00.

DECEMBER.

When every stocking was stuffed with dolls, and balls, and rings, Whistles, and tops, and dogs, (of all conceivable things!) Old Kriss Kringle looked, and saw on the elm-tree bough, High-hung, an oriole's nest, lonely and empty now;

"Quite like a stocking," he laughed, "pinned up there on the tree! I didn't suppose the birds expected a present from me!" Then old Kriss Kringle, who loves a joke as well as the best, Dropped a handful of flakes in the oriole's empty nest.

T. B. ALDRICH.

—Selected.

The growth of the League is steady and healthy. On the 1st of November last 13,500 chapters had been chartered and 3,000 junior chapters, with a total membership of 1,000,000.

No indulgence of passion destroys the spiritual nature so much as respectable selfishness.—George Macdonald.

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